



Trooper Victor O. Dosing

Badge #22
10-42 ... December 7, 1941

Victor O. Dosing was born August 31, 1907, in Bonne Terre, Saint Francois County, MO, the oldest of two sons, to Martin and Ona Aberley Dosing. A second son, Elmo James Dosing, was born May 1, 1923. Victor Dosing graduated from Flat River High School in 1926, where his father was a shop teacher. Following high school, Dosing attended the University of Alabama for one year where he studied chemical engineering. Elmo Dosing became deathly ill during the time Victor attended school in Alabama, so Victor left school to be with his family in Texas where his young brother was hospitalized. Eventually, Elmo Dosing recovered and the family returned to Missouri where Victor attended Flat River Junior College.

Victor was a star athlete at Flat River Junior College and later at Central Methodist College in Fayette. The Flat River Yearbook reported, "Victor Dosing, Fullback — Brute strength and the initiative to put it into play were the qualities possessed by 'Vic'. He is a powerful plunger and late in the season, developed into a first class punter." A second description of his football prowess was described in 1929 by Central Methodist College, "Victor Dosing, R. Tackle — Vic proved to be a source of trouble to many a surging ball carrier who sought to gain passage

through the line. His aggressive spirit was remarkable." Victor received an associate's of arts degree from Flat River Junior College and a bachelor's of arts degree in chemistry from Central Methodist College in May 1931.

On May 10, 1931, Victor Dosing married Muriel "Rosalie" Settle from Fayette in Marshall, MO. On October 5, 1931, Victor O. Dosing was sworn in as an original member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and attended the academy in St. Louis, MO. Upon graduation from the Academy, Trooper Dosing became one of the first two Missouri State Highway Patrol officers assigned to Springfield, MO.

On January 14, 1933, a daughter, Jo Ann, was born to Victor and Rosalie. In July 1934, Tpr. Dosing requested and received a temporary 90-day transfer to Troop C in St. Louis. Tpr. Dosing requested the transfer because his daughter was to have surgery for a congenital dislocation of both hips. In Tpr. Dosing's request was written, "Cost of maintaining separate quarters for my wife in St. Louis as well as my desire to be near the baby make me desire this transfer." Jo Ann Dosing wore casts on both legs for approximately eighteen months during which time her father carried her and cared for her on a daily basis despite the rigorous work hours imposed upon him by the Patrol.

On May 1, 1939, a second daughter, Janet Lee, was born. By the time of Janet's birth, Victor had firmly entrenched himself as a hero to his daughter Jo Ann. Jo



The first recruit class was photographed in groups of seven or eight, as in the photo above. Recruit Vic Dosing is standing, the first man on the left.

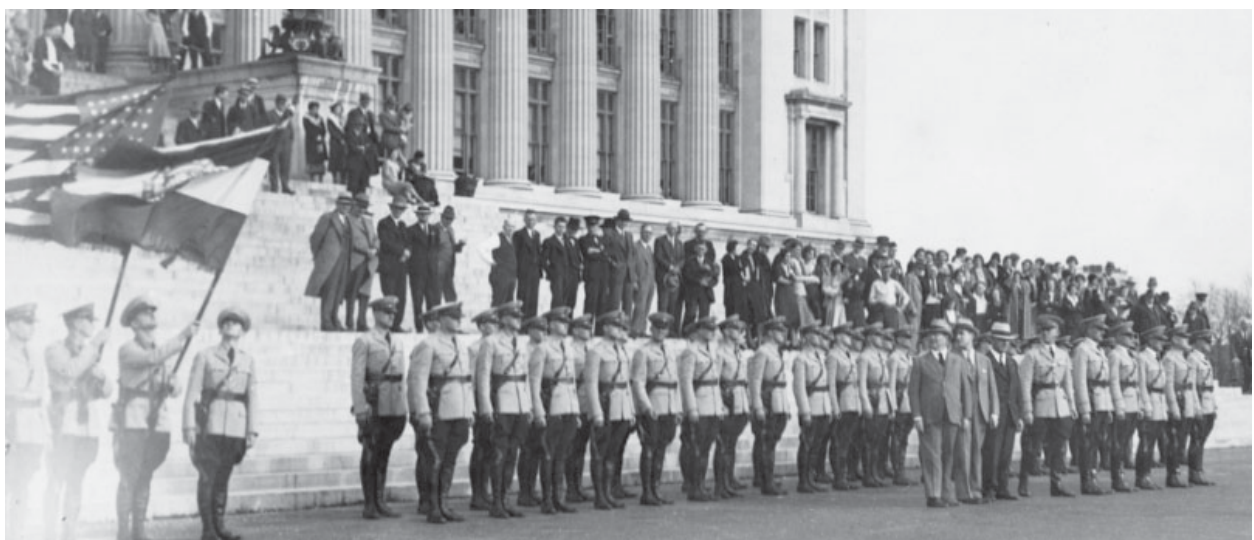
Ann recalled, "My dad was my hero." Jo Ann, affectionately called "Squirt," by her father, remembered Tpr. Dosing walking the floor with her when she was sick. On one occasion, Jo Ann decided to try on her father's handcuffs, which necessitated a trip to the old Troop D Headquarters on

Fremont Street in Springfield to obtain a key. Tpr. Dosing also attempted to entertain his daughter with a ride on his Patrol motorcycle. The aborted trip ended with Jo Ann falling off in the yard before they reached the street. Tpr. Dosing made no secret of his dislike for his assigned motorcycle.

Tpr. Dosing proved to be a dedicated officer on the Patrol who routinely received commendations for his actions. Motorist assists, intoxicated driver arrests, courtroom testimony, apprehension of auto thieves, and the capture of two New Jersey robbery suspects are among the actions for which those outside of the Patrol felt it necessary to note his exem-

plary performance.

On April 27, 1941, Tpr. Dosing was returning to Troop D from Jefferson City when he laid down his motorcycle in an attempt to avoid striking another vehicle which braked to avoid striking a third vehicle. The freshly oiled roadway and the



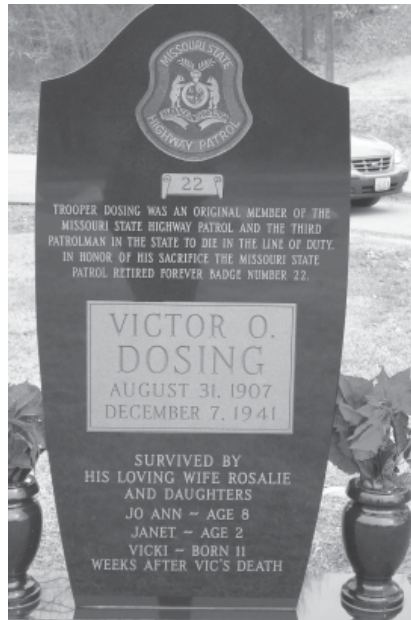
The first recruit class is presented to legislators and the public at Missouri's Capitol after graduating in 1931.

slide across the roadway slightly damaged the motorcycle but destroyed the new uniform shirt and breeches worn by Tpr. Dosing. Tpr. Dosing requested and received reimbursement, from the Patrol, in the amounts of \$9.50 for the shirt and \$15.50 for the breeches.

Tpr. Dosing served as a safety officer in the Springfield schools and was conscientious in his concern about bicycle safety when speaking to the students. Jo Ann Dosing experienced the level of his commitment when she was grounded for riding her bicycle with no hands. Tpr. Dosing's excitement about providing her with that bicycle during the previous Christmas overwhelmed him as he brought the new bicycle into the residence at midnight honking the horn.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, the Dosing family sat down to eat their Sunday dinner when a telephone call caused Tpr. Dosing to report for duty. Mrs. Dosing had prepared a chocolate pie, a favorite of Tpr. Dosing. Before he left Tpr. Dosing looked at his daughter, Jo Ann, and said, "Don't eat my pie, Squirt." Those were the last words Jo Ann ever heard spoken by her father and hero.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, as the world moved closer to the astonishing news of the Pearl Harbor attack, Tpr. Victor O. Dosing and Trooper Sam Graham responded to the Coffee Pot Cafe in Galloway near Springfield. The troopers had received information that a vehicle stolen from a car lot following the murder of the night watchman in Little Rock, AR, had been located parked behind the cafe. The coffee pot shaped building had an apartment upstairs above the cafe where the



On December 7, 2004, a memorial honoring Trooper Vic O. Dosing was placed near where Tpr. Dosing was shot and killed in the line of duty on Dec. 7, 1941. The shooting occurred at the Coffee Pot Cafe, one mile south of Galloway on U.S. Highway 65.

officers were advised that Army Private Milan J. Nedimovich had been staying with a 19-year-old waitress, Margie Smith. Ironically the homicide victim's daughter had been en route to her father's funeral in Arkansas, when she and her husband were told at a nearby service station that a young soldier who was at the Coffee Pot Cafe was driving a vehicle matching the description of the vehicle stolen when her father was murdered. This sequence of events led to the arrival of Troopers Dosing and Graham at the cafe parking lot where they met the local constable John Love and Justice of the Peace A.F. Stubbs.

Troopers Dosing and Graham walked up the exterior steps to the second story apartment in an attempt to arrest Nedimovich whom Tpr. Dosing knew from a previous arrest in Springfield for being AWOL and asleep in a stolen car. As Tpr. Dosing grabbed the doorknob the door was quickly opened and Nedimovich fired a shot from a Harrington-Richardson, .38-caliber pistol killing Tpr. Dosing instantly. Nedimovich also critically wounded Tpr. Graham with a second shot. Nedimovich retreated back into the room as he was

fired upon by Justice Stubbs, who was armed with a pistol borrowed from the son-in-law of the Arkansas homicide victim. Nedimovich obtained Tpr. Dosing's sidearm and pointed his (Nedimovich's) gun at his hysterical girlfriend and pulled the trigger. The gun did not fire and he subsequently shot himself to death with Tpr. Dosing's gun.

In the aftermath of the shooting Tpr. Graham reported the incident by traveling to a different location to use the telephone, but was overcome by his own injuries on his return trip to the cafe. The post shooting investigation revealed that Nedimovich was responsible for the murder of Tpr. Dosing, the Little Rock, AR, victim, and a third, unrelated, Missouri homicide of a victim who had given Nedimovich a ride while en route to visit his mother who was gravely ill.

The murder of Tpr. Dosing had occurred only four days after the murder of Trooper Fred Walker in St. Genevieve County. Troopers from Troop E return-

ing from the funeral of Tpr. Walker, who had been buried in Lathrop, MO, were the first officers on the scene following the shooting as they were passing through Springfield at the time.

Rosalie Dosing, who was pregnant with the Dosings' third child, was bedridden from complications from her pregnancy when she was notified of her husband's murder. Eight-year-old Jo Ann Dosing was in the living room of their residence reading the Sunday funny paper when she heard her mother's scream from the bedroom. Shortly thereafter one of the men came out to her and told her that her father had been killed.

Despite the gravity of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Monday, December 8, 1941, Springfield Daily News had the headline of Tpr. Dosing's murder above the headline of the Japanese attack. The accompanying article included the complete four-page written statement of Nedimovich's girlfriend, Margie Smith.



Retired Sgt. Don Richardson stands with the Dosing children (left to right) Janet Lee, Jo Ann, and Vicki Ona. (2004)

Tpr. Dosing's funeral was handled by the Herman H. Lohmeyer Funeral Home in Springfield. Though it was winter, Jo Ann Dosing wore a summer weight dress to the funeral, which was white with red polka dots and a sailor's collar, because it was her father's favorite. Patrol Superintendent Stanley Ginn asked each member of the Patrol including radio personnel to submit five dollars to assist with the funeral expenses and additional funds needed by the Dosing family. The Patrol was able to pay the \$404 total for the funeral and to provide Mrs. Dosing with an additional \$515. Colonel Ginn also required each member to provide \$3.15 for the funeral expenses of Tpr. Walker, who was not married.

Rosalie Dosing wrote the following letter to Colonel Ginn to express her appreciation:

Dear Colonel Ginn:

I wish to express to each officer and trooper of the Patrol, my appreciation for your generosity. It is a reminder to me of the loyalness of an organization of which my husband was proud to be a member.

*Very Sincerely
Mrs. V.O. Dosing*

In the aftermath of the murder, the Dosing family tried to pick up the broken pieces of their lives. Rosalie Dosing had no marketable skills and had to attend school to prepare for employment following the birth of the third Dosing daughter, Vicki Ona, on February 22, 1942. Jo Ann Dosing was able to complete the school year in Springfield, but the following year she was sent to live with her grandparents in St. Louis and attended school there for two years.

Her sisters were sent to live with family friends in Springfield, so Mrs. Dosing

could earn a living. Each Friday, with few exceptions, Martin and Ona Dosing would put their young granddaughter on a train to Springfield so she could see her mother, and each Sunday evening she would return to St. Louis by train. Jo Ann Dosing stated she had to grow up fast given the situation her family faced. She returned to Springfield for her sixth grade year where she remained throughout most of her life.

In August 1942, with three daughters to raise Rosalie Dosing went to work as a stenographer at Troop D Headquarters in Springfield. She worked there for 24 years and two months, and retired on November 1, 1966. Rosalie was remarried for a brief period of time but never recovered from the loss of her husband. She died February 1, 1981. She was buried next to her husband, Victor, in Maple Park Cemetery in Springfield.

Jo Ann Dosing graduated from Springfield Central High School in 1950. Jo Ann had two daughters and a son. She named her son Victor. She worked as a physician's assistant throughout her career and retired to Florida. Janet Lee Dosing is married with two daughters and remains in the Springfield area. She worked as a travel agent. Vicki Ona Dosing never married and lives in Surprise, AZ.

Jo Ann Dosing Brown has asked that the Lohmeyer Funeral Home bury her in the same cemetery as her parents, and that troopers serve as pallbearers. Jo Ann stated, "You have always been my family. I appreciate you and I love you. My dad was proud of what he did."

(Note: Lt. James P. Ripley, Troop A, researched and wrote this profile in 2004.

Lt. Ripley plans to write in-depth profiles about every fallen hero of the Patrol. Thank you, Lt. Ripley, for sharing the ones you've completed thus far.)